NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Hotel Reservations for Annual Convention at Atlantic City

While we have received from many of our members applications for reservations at Atlantic City for the Annual Convention, we still have a supply of rooms available, and it is hoped all members who have not yet sent for their reservations will do so promptly, so we can have them taken care of.

Reservations can be secured at practically any hotel, but most of our members have so far requested us to enter them at the Ambassador, Ritz-Carlton, or Chelsea Hotels. Rates at the Ambassador and Ritz-Carlton, operated on the European plan, are $5.00 per day for room with bath for single occupancy, and $8.00 per day for room with bath for double occupancy. At the Chelsea Hotel, operated on the American plan, the rates are $10.00 per day for room with bath for single occupancy and $18.00 per day for double occupancy. A few parlors are still available at $10.00 per day.

European Corn Borer

The Executive Committee of the International Corn Borer Organization met in Washington November 17 and 18 and conferred with Secretary Jardine relative to a substantial Federal appropriation for corn borer extermination, over and above that included in the Department of Agiculture budget. Secretary Jardine showed keen interest in the whole corn borer situation, and made a number of very valuable suggestions to the

Committee regarding details of procedure. He also reported that the Bureau of the Budget had approved the amount requested by the Department of Agriculture for the corn borer work for the ensuing fiscal year.

The conclusion reached was that all State, Federal, agricultural and business agencies should be called upon to cooperate in a thorough and intensive campaign for a clean-up of the European corn borer in the whole infested area. In the infested area more than 3,000,000 acres of corn were grown during the year 1926. The corn borer problem has assumed national importance and is of concern to the people of the towns and cities as well as to the farmers. It is felt, therefore, that a Federal appropriation should be requested which can be used in the furtherance of this campaign. The amount needed in additional appropriations was placed by the Committee at $10,000,000.

The Committee presented the situation to President Coolidge in a conference at the White House on November 18. The President expressed himself sympathtically and promised his cooperation.

At the conclusion of the meeting the following resolution was adopted:

"In the proposed corn borer clean-up and control work the State and Federal authorities shall have complete authority to inaugurate and enforce all necessary regulatory and control measures.

"In such work the farmer shall not be compensated for any of the essential work of good farming in the ordinary processes of operating his farm; but in cases where regulatory measures are enforced, involving expenses for public safety and contributing to the general program of control, the farmer shall be compensated on an equitable and fair basis for such additional expense involved. The state and federal authorities shall have power to fix such compensation under a uniform policy in all states, subject to existing conditions in the various localities."

The Committee has been advised since the Washington meeting that the National Grange in session at Portland November 19 passed a strong resolution favoring effective corn borer control.

Canned Peas Wrongly Blamed

An Eastern newspaper recently reported the death of a woman as due to "ptomaine poisoning resulting from eating peas after they had been left in an open tin can."

The machinery of the Association for investigating such reports was promptly set in motion and it was found from statements of the attending physician, the coroner and members of the woman's family, that she died of apoplexy.

The Association has sent a vigorous protest to the newspaper editor against the publication of such an unfounded and hurtful report. However, as long as some canners and distributors persist in printing on their labels "Empty contents of this can as soon as opened," which is quite generally regarded by the public as a warning, such reports will continue to appear from time to time.

Abstracts of Canning Technology

Volume 4, Nos. 1 and 2, of "Abstracts of Canning Technology" has just been published and was mailed to all members last week.

Freight Rates

By an order dated November 13, entered in connection with Investigation and Suspension Docket No. 2191, the Interstate Commerce Commission suspended from November 15, 1926, to March 15, 1927, the operation of certain schedules proposed to increase the rates on canned goods in car load lots from New Orleans and other Gulf ports, when originating on the Pacific Coast and for movement by water through the Panama Canal to certain destinations in Mississippi Valley territory. The proposed increases would have amounted to about 20 per cent.

Car Loadings

Loading of revenue freight for the week ending November 20 totaled 1,078,812 cars, as announced by the American Railway Association.

This is an increase of 20,889 cars over the corresponding week last year, and an increase of 67,893 cars over the same week in 1924.

Due to the usual seasonal decline in traffic that takes place at this time of year, the total for the week was a decrease of 34,074 cars under the preceding week.

Southern Italy Tomato Crop

According to Department of Commerce reports, the tomato crop of southern Italy, particularly the provinces of Naples and

Salerno, is probably 35% less than in 1925. The low yield is partially due to the decreased acreage planted.

The southern Italy production of canned peeled tomatoes will probably not exceed 50% of last year's production. Tomato paste production is variously estimated at from 65% to 90% lower than last year. This reduction is due both to the scarcity of tomatoes and to the increasing sanitary requirements of foreign markets.

Fruit Canning in Southern Italy

According to the Department of Commerce the 1926 fruit crop of southern Italy is very abundant and the canners made good use of their opportunities, although statistics are not yet available. Cherries, apricots, peaches, and pears were canned in quantity, while peaches and pears were exported fresh to England for the first time.

Fruit Canning in Australia

Through the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, we are able to supply the following information taken from a report made by the American Trade Commissioner at Sydney, New South Wales.

Four Australian states are concerned with fruit growing, the bulk of the production being on irrigated areas in Victoria and New South Wales. During recent years the production has increased considerably, chiefly on account of the areas given over to the production of fruits in connection with soldier settlement schemes.

In 1921-22, 1,140,000 dozen 30-ounce tins of fruit were canned in Australia; by 1924-25 that number had increased to 2,500,000 dozen tins. During 1922 Australia disposed of 450,000 dozen tins of canned fruit to Great Britain and, in 1925, 850,000 dozen tins, which was, however, only 20 per cent of the total importation of canned fruits into Breat Britain, the remaining 80 per cent coming chiefly from California. It is expected that, as the result of the preference being given Australia by Great Britain, and also of the advertising campaign commencing in England, Australia will each year obtain an increasing proportion of this business. Since the reciprocal treaty between Australia and Canada was entered into, small consignments have been sent to that country, and this business also is expected to expand.

The Australian canned fruit industry has now entered upon its third stage of development through the passage of the Canned Fruits Export Bill.

Since 1916 the Australian government has been endeavoring to assist the fruit growing and canning industries by a system of bounties to encourage the growing and export of fruit products. Instead, the export bill provides for the control of export and overseas marketing of canned fruits by a board of three persons, one representing the cooperative interests, one the proprietary interests and one the government. The scheme is financed by a levy on the fruit pack for export amounting to three pence on each dozen of 30 ounce tins exported, any surplus over and above the sum required for financing to be used for advertising purposes. Provision is made for a London agency of the Board since the bulk of the trade is at present with London, but the Board will have control of all products sent overseas, no matter to what destination.

It is said that the object of this bill is to help the Australian canning exporter to compete with other canned fruits on the London market, notably California fruits, and by the control of exported fruits it is hoped to raise the standard of Australian fruit and prevent a recurrence of the complaints regarding quality which were made last year. The bill is modeled on similar acts already passed covering dairy products and dried fruits.

Pineapple Growing in Java

The American Consul at Batavia, Java, reports that there are three districts in that island where cultivation of pineapples is carried on intensively, but if the erection of a canning plant were contemplated, there is only one suitable location in the neighborhood of Semarang.

The Noengal pineapple, grown in the vicinity of Buitenzorg, is of a quality inferior to the Singapore fruit, but its flavor is far superior.

Production varies from 3,000,000 to 5,250,000 pineapples harvested from early in December to the latter part of Febuary. The Loemprah variety is especially suitable for canning as it can compete in many respects with the Singapore fruit. Up to the present time it is said no effort has been made to export pineapples from the Dutch Indies because the entire crop is always consumed in that colony.

Marking of Canned Salmon Sold in British Empire

American Trade Commissioner Somerville reports that the British Empire Producers asked the recent Imperial Conference to require clear marking of all canned fish when sold retail as either "Empire" or "Foreign". It is pointed out that as salmon canning is one of the industries to which a preference was proposed to be given by the British government in 1923, it is entitled to the special consideration of the Empire Marketing Board, a body formed as a result of the withdrawal of the promised preferences.

Domestic Exports of Canned Foods

		Month of October	*Ten Months Ended October*	
		1926	1925	1926
Total Canned meats	Lbs.	1,221,776	14,678,690	13,431,881
	$	379,576	4,605,649	4,485,287
Total Canned Vegetables	Lbs.	6,894,533	43,374,088	57,954,617
	$	632,515	4,793,308	5,556,200
Total Canned Fruits	Lbs.	22,434,287	195,263,598	166,266,128
	$	2,222,768	19,869,224	17,137,586
Apricots, canned	Lbs.	2,477,464	28,043,346	25,807,744
	$	267,263	2,518,229	2,597,255
Peaches, canned	Lbs.	6,896,942	61,804,666	50,671,127
	$	679,895	5,783,422	5,065,077
Pears, canned	Lbs.	6,016,852	49,224,768	36,197,258
	$	566,358	5,877,266	4,026,768
Pineapples, canned	Lbs.	3,054,032	29,959,024	25,465,697
	$	315,034	2,918,813	2,387,587
Salmon, canned	Lbs.	7,868,517	42,088,699	36,438,262
	$	1,350,311	7,144,096	5,832,845
Sardines, canned	Lbs.	9,050,857	48,142,635	56,203,173
	$	820,709	4,049,827	4,835,638

Wholesale Trade in October

Sales of merchandise by wholesale firms reporting to the Federal Reserve system declined in October in nearly all leading lines. Sales of groceries were from 6% to 8% smaller than last year over the country as a whole, the decrease occurring in nearly all Federal Reserve districts.

Stocks of merchandise as measured in dollar values carried by the reporting firms continued the usual seasonal decline in October, notwithstanding the reduction in sales, and inventories in all leading lines except groceries and drugs were smaller than for any previous month this year. Compared with October a year ago stocks of groceries were smaller.

Taking the average monthly sales at wholesale in 1919 as 100, the average monthly sales for 1925 and 1926 were 85 and 82.3 respectively.

Pack of Canned Vegetables in British Columbia

The pack of canned tomatoes this year in British Columbia is estimated at 375,000 cases, compared with 400,000 cases last year, according to a report of the American Consul at Vancouver. In spite of the fact that cannery prices were 50c per ton higher this season, the wholesale prices of canned tomatoes are said to be lower than a year ago, being $1.15 per dozen for No. 2½ tins.

The quantity of peas canned in British Columbia is about the same as in 1925. No. 4 size is the most popular, and is said to be selling wholesale at $1.10 per dozen cans, as compared with $1.40 last year.

There is no increase in the corn pack this year. The principal supplies of canned sweet corn on the market in British Columbia come from the Unnitd States.

Sweet Corn Breeding Experiments

The Maine Agricultural Experiment Station has recently published Bulletin 332, entitled "Sweet Corn Breeding Experiments", by Dr. Karl Sax. The publication reports in detail the strain and variety tests and the variety improvement work through inbreeding which has been carried on by the Station for the past few years. The following is quoted from the Summary:

"The date that corn will be in the best canning stage can be predicted, based on the appearance of the silk and the climatic conditions. In Maine sweet corn is ready for canning about 35 days after the silks appear.

"The quality of sweet corn is dependent partly on varietal differences, but primarily on climatic conditions and length of time from picking to packing. Puncture tests show that Crosby corn grown in Maine maintains its tenderness for several days after it reaches the prime canning condition. Under the average

conditions in Maine sweet corn remains in good canning condition in the field for about 5 days. The greater length of time which sweet corn remains in proper canning condition, and the cool weather at the time of packing, is undoubtedly one of the reasons for the superiority of Maine sweet corn."

Interested canners may obtain copies of the publication by writing direct to the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, Orono, Maine.

Customs Classification of Frozen Sea Herring

The Court of Customs Appeals has handed down a decision upholding duty of one cent per pound on frozen sea herring under Paragraph 717 of the Tariff Act, and refusing the claim of the importers that they should be admitted free of duty as fresh fish under Paragraph 1656. (U. S. Court of Customs Appeals, Suit No. 2785).

Board of Tax Appeals Decision on Deterioration

In the case of J. E. Siebel Sons Company vs. Commissioner of Internal Revenue, the Board of Tax Appeals has refused to allow the petitioner the amount claimed on account of depreciation of certain machinery in the absence of sufficient proof to show that the machinery actually did deteriorate faster than the rate allowed by the Commissioner. (Board of Tax Appeals No. 1130).

"Just an Old Superstition"

Dr. William Brady, in one of his newspaper articles replying to an inquiry regarding the danger of allowing the contents of a can to remain in the can after it has been opened, disposes of the question by stating: "You may let me have any strawberries, if you are rejecting them because they have stood a while in the can after opening. That is just an old superstition."

British Canned Fruit Market

A report from the American Trade Commissioner in London states that imports of canned pineapple into the United Kingdom during the first nine months of 1926 fell off by 100,000 hundredweight, but imports of other canned fruits increased by about 200,000 hundredweight. In this connection he also reports that Singapore pineapple packers have formed a federation and are asking higher prices for future shipments.